

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

B Â T U K Ô D O K.

(THE FROG ROCK.)

THE above is a rock which, at low tide, bears a remarkable likeness to a frog squatting. It is situated, with some other and larger rocks, in the old Straits of Singapore, between Changi and the eastern end of Pulau Ūbin, near the latter. The local account of its origin is that, when mosquitos were as big as fowls, frogs were large in proportion, and that the living original of the rock in question in those days ventured a swim across the Straits, but before he could reach land daylight appeared, and the adventurer was turned to stone where he was.

As to the days when mosquitos were as big as fowls, it is said there was a king of the mosquitos—a Râja Nyâmok—who used periodically to devour all the maidens of the land; at last he had eaten them nearly all up, and for some time could not find one. But after some trouble, he found an old woman at home who had the daughter he was looking for, but the daughter was not in the house when he went there, and on his asking her mother, she told him the maiden was out in the field, so he went out after her, and found her, but she was burning some rubbish, and the smoke interfered unpleasantly with his approach, so he asked her to desist from her disagreeable occupation, but she, having a shrewd idea of the object of his visit, declined; and so it was that the way of keeping off mosquitos was discovered, and thenceforward, no doubt, they declined in the scale of creation.